PIDGEON, Rev. E Leslie

May 1919 (623)

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MORAL EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOLS IN RELATION TO CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WINNIPEG , May 10th, 1919.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President, Toronto University,
TORONTO, Ontario,

My dear Sir Robert:-

I had a brief interview with Dr. Thornton on the matter of your suggestion with respect to a meeting of the Ministers of Education of the Provinces to be held in Winnipeg. I suggested to him that I should put the request in the form of a letter which I have done. I am forwarding you a copy lest I should have in any way misunderstood you in our interview by Telephone.

A friend forwarded me a clipping from the Globe reporting my address to the Rotary Club of Toronto. It was a very brief report and was untrue to my statements from beginning to end. It is hard to imagine how the reporter could have so misrepresented me. I mention this because I regret the false impression that this would create in any who took notice of it.

We all earnestly hope that you can make it possible to be with us in October and are assured that your presence and message will add much to the strength of this gathering.

Yours very sincerely,

J. Shirlie Pidgeon

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MORAL EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOLS IN RELATION TO CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WINNIPEG, May 10th, 1919.

COPY.

Hon. Dr. R. S. Thornton,
Minister of Education,
WINNIPEG, Man.,

Dear Sir:-

While in Toronto a few days ago, I had a brief telephone interview with Sir Robert Falconer, in which my main object was to urge an invitation from Sir James Aikins to attend a conference on Education in Citizenship to be held in Winnipeg, October next. Sir Robert stated that he had intended to request the Minister of Education of Ontario to invite the Governments of the various Provinces, to send their respective Minister of Education to a conference in Ottawa to discuss the question of Canadian Education.

But as the above mentioned conference was being held in Winnipeg, he suggested that we ask you to issue this invitation to the Governments, for a meeting of the Ministers of Education in Winnipeg immediately following the citizens conference. He stated that if this were done he would have hopes that our conference might be fruitful. I also understood Sir Robert to say that if you communicated with him, he would be glad to give you any details of the suggestion. I consider this suggestion to be an excellent one, and may I hope that you will give it your sympathetic consideration. I shall be glad to give you further information by interview or any other possible method.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir Robert Falconer so that if I misunderstood him in any particular over the telephone, the same may be corrected. As far as my memory serves me, the above is the gist of our interview.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. Leslie Pidgeon

May 19th, 1919

Rev. E. Leslie Pidgeon,

Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Dr. Pidgeon:

I have read your letter to the Hon. Mr. Thornton and it covers the facts of the case very well.

I should think that the Conference of the Provinces, if held, should follow immediately on your own Conference. In fact it might be well not to have your Conference too long if the other is held, because it may not be possible for many men to stay more than two or three days in Winnipeg in any case, and the one would cover somewhat the same ground as the other.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.